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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER FROM AMBASSADOR CASTRO
E.O. 12065: XDS-1 7/30/00 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS EL AR SHUM
SUBJECT: (C) BOLIVIAN RECOGNITION BY GOA

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ONE OF MY MOST AGONIZING MOMENTS OF MY TOUR OF DUTY IN
ARGENTINA OCCURRED YESTERDAY (JULY 29) AT 1300 HRS
AT THE FONOFF WHEN I HAD TO SIT THROUGH TWO HOURS OF
DIATRIBE AT A LUNCHEON IN WHICH I WAS THE GUEST OF HONOR.

3. SUPPOSEDLY I WAS THERE TO RECEIVE ACCOLADES FROM
THE FONMIN FOR MY EFFORTS TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN AMERICANS AND ARGENTINES. SOME OF THE PLATITUDES
WERE PRESENT, BUT MOST OF FONMIN PASTOR'S REMARKS WERE
UNCONVENTIONAL AND HARD-HITING WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE
OCCASION. HE USED THE LUNCHEON AS A FORUM, CONSISTING
OF SIXTEEN AMBASSADORS I HAD SUGGESTED AS INVITEES, TO
GIVE A DISCOURSE ON GOA'S POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION.
HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO BOLIVIA AND HOW THERE EXISTED
AN AUTHENTIC SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES,
WHICH WENT BEYOND CIRCUMSTANTIAL HISTORIC EPISODES, AND
IT WAS THE ONLY ONE WHICH COULD HELP ARGENTINA'S BROTHERS-
NEIGHBORS OF BOLIVIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

4. PASTOR RAMBLED ON, STATING THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN
ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA WAS UNIMPEACHABLE. HE FURTHER
COMMENTED AND WARNED THAT SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LATIN
AMERICAN NATIONS RAN THE RISK OF BECOMING A CONSTANT AND
AUTOMATIC REFLEX, UNSUITABLE TO FREE, INDEPENDENT NATIONS.

5. FONMIN WAS NOTIFIED BY ME PRIOR TO THE LUNCHEON OF

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

DEN,VP
EOB:THORN

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PSN:021228

PAGE 01

TOR:213/02:44Z

DTG:302109Z JUL 80

NW 57067 DocId:33069276 Page 1

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DEPARTMENTAL MANDATE TO CANCEL AMB. BOWDLER'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA. I DID THIS SO HE KNEW THE SETTING IN WHICH WE WERE DEALING. IT GAVE HIM A CHOICE OF EITHER FINDING AN EXCUSE TO CANCEL THE LUNCHEON OR HIT ME HARD DURING THE ORATORY. IT ALSO GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY OF AVOIDING PRAISING ME TO HIGH HEAVEN IF THE HEADLINES WOULD SHORTLY SHOW THAT AMB. BOWDLER'S CANCELLATION WAS AN AFFRONT TO GOA.

6. AS IT TURNED OUT I LATER LEARNED FONMIN HAD THREE SPEECHES PREPARED. ONE IF AMB. BOWDLER APPEARED. A SECOND ONE IF BOWDLER CANCELLED OUT AND A THIRD ONE IF AMB. BOWDLER ONLY MADE A TOKEN APPEARANCE. IMMEDIATELY UPON MY NOTIFICATION OF THE CANCELLATION, THE FONOFF TOOK A SEMBLANCE OF A THREE-RING CIRCUS AS EVERYONE WAS RUNNING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. THIS, OF COURSE, ALL IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER AMBASSADORS.

7. MY REPLY TO FONMIN TOAST WAS SIMPLE WITH THE TRUST BEING ONE OF "HASTA LA VISTA Y NO ADIOS". BY THE TIME I SAT DOWN IT WAS APPARENT MOST OF THE GUESTS FELT UNCOMFORTABLE AS THERE WAS A LOT OF SQUIRMING. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT THE FONMIN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY PRESENCE TO DISCUSS A POLITICAL ISSUE.

8. COMMENT: THERE IS NO QUESTION FEELINGS HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. THERE HAS BEEN A TEMPORARY SETBACK IN RELATIONS. MY FEELING IS WE MUST PROCEED ON A LOW-KEY BASIS FOR A FEW DAYS. PERHAPS NEXT WEEK, MR. CLAUS RUSER, WHO WILL BE CHARGE WITHIN A FEW HOURS, CAN START HIS ROUNDS OF COURTESY CALLS ON GOA OFFICIALS. THIS IS MY SWAN-SONG AS I DEPART PERMANENTLY TONIGHT.
CASTRO
BT

PSN:021228 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:213/02:44Z DTG:332109Z JUL 80

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